

munications facility and relocated to its current location on the historic Washington Navy Yard.

Three of the civilian personnel transplanted from Cheltenham to the Washington Navy Yard still serve today. Beverly Blume celebrated 32 years of civil service, all at NCTS Washington, in September.

Blume has witnessed and taken part in the many transformations of naval communications – largely from paper to automated communications systems. She currently serves as the Multi-Level Mail Server (MMS) and Defense Message System (DMS) administrator and has been instrumental in NCTS Washington's cutover to DMS 2.2 and DMS 3.0.

Beaudina Taper, administrative officer, has been assigned since 1981. Her career began 22 years ago serving a multitude of security and administrative jobs.

Linda Reamy, NCTS' financial manager, has been with NCTS Washington since 1985. As the financial manager in Cheltenham, Reamy's office was the last to relocate to the Washington Navy Yard.

Outstanding Service Amidst Tragedy

Prior to their relocation, these same three employees took part in placing various items in a time capsule, which is buried at the front entrance of Building 1 beneath a concrete placard. "We put everything in there to mark the time," explains Blume.

Taper and Reamy add, "The time capsule has an assortment of memorabilia. Not just communications-related items, but things like diapers, Tide soap, newspapers, magazines, money and punch tape."

Comments Reamy, "The time capsule was buried in 1988 on the 50th anniversary of the opening of Cheltenham Communications Station with the intent it will be opened on the command's 100th anniversary."

The command suffered a personal tragedy on Sept. 11, 2001. This devastation epitomized a one-of-a-kind, deeply rooted example of the brilliant teamwork within the command.



Additional historical photos depict personnel and operations at the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham Md., from 1959 (top) and 1960.



Seven of our Navy's finest assigned to NCTSW within the Chief of Naval Operations' Telecommunications Center (TCC) were killed. The terrorist attack against the Pentagon destroyed the entire Voice Communications spaces.

Tough times were ahead, but during this crucial time in NCTSW history, the command stood tall and proud to honor fallen shipmates and to maintain our guard against terrorism. Words cannot describe the cohesiveness one team can bring after the pain of such devastation.

Selected as the LCC of the Year in 2001, NCTSW demonstrated outstanding service to their customers during the transition to DMS 2.2. NCTSW is

the Navy's largest LCC and currently services over 500 commands in 24 states.

The bar was again raised on June 11, 2002 when NCTSW became the first activity on the Washington Navy Yard – and one of the first in the Navy – to successfully complete the transition to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI). The command was the first of 40 locations within the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT) claimancy to cutover to NMCI.

As a resident expert on NMCI, NCTSW has provided numerous lessons learned for the entire NCTAMS LANT claimancy and support to over 1,500 NMCI seat installations on the Washington Navy Yard and surrounding capital region commands.

The oldest Communication Station is nestled inside the beltway of our Nation's Capital. The 102-year-old command has witnessed numerous historical events. It is only fitting that the first communication station be assigned to the Navy's first shore installation – the Washington Navy Yard – a time capsule of our Navy's heritage.